

Indiana Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section – Frequently Asked Questions

What are the licensing requirements for boiler operators?

Answer: Indiana statute (IC 22-15-6) and administrative rules (680 IAC 2) do not require licensing of boiler operators.

Note 1: A voluntary licensing program is available through the Indiana Association of the National Association of Power Engineers (NAPE). NAPE has several chapters of their association representing various regions in Indiana.

Note 2: The federal Environmental Protection Agency have promulgated requirements for licensing of employees operating large power production boilers owned by electric utilities.

What boilers and/or pressure vessels are regulated in Indiana?

Answer: All defined boilers and unfired pressure vessels are regulated unless specifically exempted at 680 IAC 2-1-2(f).

Note: The parameters that determine how an object is defined or is regulated pertain to its specific location, size, pressure, use and ownership. A licensed inspector should be consulted with specific information to make this determination.

Boilers and pressure vessels at 680 IAC 2-1-5 are exempt from the requirements for inspection and certification; however they are not exempt from the requirement for ASME standard construction.

Who is responsible for ensuring that regulated equipment is in compliance with Indiana statute and administrative rules?

Answer: The owner or user of the equipment.

How do I apply for a permit to operate regulated equipment?

Answer: The initial inspection must be performed by a state employed inspector, who assigns a registration number to each regulated object, or an authorized Owner / User Inspection Agency. Subsequent periodic inspections established in administrative rules must be performed by licensed boiler inspectors in the employ of insurance companies that insure the object. Where there is no insuring company, the owner must make a request to the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section for assignment of a state employed inspector to make the inspection.

Who may make welded repairs to regulated boilers and pressure vessels?

Answer: Only organizations in possession of the following certification/authorization may repair regulated boilers or pressure vessels: a) National Board “R” certificate holder (documented on a National Board R-1 repair report form) and b) The holder of an Indiana “C-3” Certificate of Authorization as issued by the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section under the authority of the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules Board. These repairs are required to be documented on an I-R1 repair form available from the BPVSS.

Note: In all cases of welded repairs, the certificate holder must be in possession of a Certificate of Authorization that is issued covering the scope of work performed. In all cases of welded repairs a state licensed boiler inspector must signify the welded repair report to verify acceptance of the work performed. Acceptance of

repairs signified by a National Board Commissioned Inspector (not state licensed) shall be at the discretion of the Director/Chief Inspector.

Who may alter regulated boilers and pressure vessels?

Answer: Only an organization holding a valid National Board “R” Certificate of Authorization may alter regulated boilers or pressure vessels. Said organization must have a scope that includes alterations.

What are the requirements for installing a used boiler or pressure vessel in Indiana?

Answer: If it is regulated, it must meet all of the requirements for a new installation. In addition, a request to install used equipment must be approved by the Director/Chief Inspector. Such a request must include information pertinent to the history of the equipment; including its use and present condition, and any documents such as inspection and repair reports that will substantiate its fitness for continued service. To assure that the used or second hand boiler or pressure vessel is fit for the service into which it is intended to be placed, it may be necessary to require that the subject vessel be subjected to ultrasonic thickness testing, and potentially, one or more types of Non Destructive Examination, including those intended to detect flaws open to the surface of the vessel (Magnetic Particle Testing, Dye Penetrant Testing), or techniques intended to identify flaws that may exist through the entire wall thickness of the vessel, such as Ultrasonic Testing (Shear Wave, Phased Array, Time of Flight), or Radiographic Testing.

What are the requirements for installing a temporary (portable) boiler or pressure vessel shipped to an Indiana location for emergency or temporary service?

Answer: There are no special rules set forth at 680 IAC 2 for the installation of temporary or portable equipment. Therefore, a regulated boiler or pressure of this kind must meet the requirements applicable to a used or re-installed boiler or pressure vessel each time it is shipped to a different location for use in Indiana. Consequently, if the portable equipment in question has been previously installed in Indiana, it will have been registered with the division and may or may not have a current and valid permit to operate (inspection certificate). If a previously registered temporary boiler or pressure vessel is being re-installed in Indiana and the location is insured by the owner or user of the location, the responsible insuring company inspector shall be contacted for approval to operate the unit. The acceptance of an existing (valid) certificate for a unit shipped to another location shall be at the discretion of the inspector. The Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section shall be contacted for the initial inspection of portable equipment not previously registered in Indiana. If circumstances necessitate that an insuring company inspector must report the installation of portable equipment not previously registered, that inspector should contact the BPVSS office for instruction and/or assistance.

What are the requirements to become a boiler and pressure vessel inspector?

Answer: A combination of education and experience specified in BPV rules (680 IAC 2-3-3) in addition to the successful completion of the examination required at 680 IAC 2-3-3.

What are the fees for boiler and pressure vessel inspection and permitting?

Answer: When inspections are performed by state-employed inspectors, a schedule of fees listed at 675 IAC 12-3-13 are charged for inspection services. Additionally, a permit processing fee listed at 675 IAC 12-3-13 (f) is charged when a permit is issued resulting from that inspection. Inspection fees and permit processing fees are

combined and the total amount is invoiced to the owner or user for payment in full. Inspection certificates (permits) are mailed to the owner or user upon receipt of payment.

When inspections are performed by insurance company employed (state-licensed) inspectors for the purpose of state required permitting, a certificate processing fee listed at 675 IAC 12-3-13 (f) is invoiced to the owner or user upon receipt of the inspection report from the insurance company inspector

How often are regulated objects inspected?

Answer: Annually for power boilers, bi-annually for heating and hot water supply boilers and service water heaters; and every three years for unfired pressure vessels. A shorter period of time may be determined as appropriate by the inspector, but the maximum period between certificates is as stated above, except that power boilers exceeding 300,000 pounds of steam per hour may be inspected internally at a frequency that may not exceed 24 months, providing that all of the additional requirements spelled out at 680 IAC 2-3-9 (A) (3) have been met to the satisfaction of the BPVSS Director / Chief Inspector.

What is the proper procedure to change the name of an owner or user or the mailing address?

Answer: Certificates are valid until their expiration date unless voided due to the condition of the object, or if insurance coverage is terminated. A change in ownership or address information is best reported at the next inspection cycle.

What is a “place of public assembly”?

Answer: a) location of assembly for civic, educational, religious, social or recreational purposes; b) location provided by a common carrier for passengers awaiting transportation, or c) location where persons are housed for medical or charitable care, or held for public, civic or correctional purposes.

If regulated equipment is in non-compliance with a rule, code or standard referenced in BPV rules, and it is not possible to comply with the rule, code or standard; what options are available to an owner or user of the equipment other than replacement?

Answer: If a regulated boiler or pressure vessel is found to be in a condition of non-compliance with one or more provisions of a rule, code or standard promulgated by or adopted by the Rules Board, the owner or user of that regulated vessel must request a variance from the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Rules Board from that non-conforming condition. No regulated boiler or pressure vessel may be continued in use unless it is either fully compliant with all Rules and Adopted Standards as noted above, or unless variance has been sought and gained from the Rules Board, specific to whatever condition or conditions cause the vessel not to comply with one or more provisions of adopted rules or standards as noted above. If it is necessary for an owner or user to seek variance for a regulated boiler or pressure vessel, instruction sheets applicable to either; standard vessels or non-standard vessels are available from the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section to assist applicants in the variance process.

What determines acceptance of a power boiler in Indiana that will meet the requirements for certification in accordance with Section 1 of the ASME code?

Answer: The state inspector will determine acceptance based upon a comparison of ASME certified documents with the installed boiler to ensure the complete boiler unit is properly certified. The boiler proper and the boiler

external piping defined in Section 1 of the ASME code comprise a “complete boiler unit” that must be certified by stamping and/or documentation.

Note: Code jurisdiction (and certification) may differ depending upon the number and type of boilers installed and depending upon the configuration of the system.

What determines acceptance of a heating boiler in Indiana that will meet the requirements for certification in accordance with Section IV of the ASME code?

Answer: The state inspector will determine acceptance based upon the stamping and/or documents provided during the initial inspection of the heating boiler. The installed boiler will be compared with Article 6 (instruments/fittings/controls) and Article 7 (installation requirements) of Section IV ASME code to ensure that the required instruments and controls have been installed properly. The inspector will check fittings supplied by the installing contractor to ensure they meet applicable standards and system requirements for pressure and temperature.

My boiler did not pass inspection.....what must I do?

Answer: Under ideal circumstances, the inspector was given assistance to access the boiler for inspection by a representative of the boiler owner or user. The owner or user’s representative should question the inspector at the time of inspection for clarification of any condition not understood by the representative. If the inspector acquired access for inspection without the assistance of a representative, he may leave a business card, or a notation describing conditions requiring attention. The inspector should be contacted directly for clarification of any condition not understood.

I received an order to correct a condition of non-compliance. I believe that the order was issued in error, what must I do?

Answer 1: If the owner or user of a regulated vessel disagrees with the validity of a violation order citing a condition of non-compliance, they may contact the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section to request an informal hearing to discuss the matter.

Answer 2: The owner or user of a regulated vessel also have the right to request an administrative hearing before an Administrative Law Judge of the Fire Prevention and Building Safety Commission. This right must be exercised within eighteen days of the date noted on the violation order.

I received an order to correct a condition of non-compliance. I was not aware that an inspection was conducted. What must I do?

Answer: IC 22-15-2-6 provides that an inspector may enter and inspect any property, at a reasonable hour. It is possible that regulated equipment was accessible and inspected without your knowledge, and it is possible that the person allowing access for the inspection did not inform you of such an inspection. In any case, you may contact this office at (317) 232-1921 and we will assist you in understanding the conditions noted, or we will assist you in making contact with the inspector for clarification.

Note: You should read the order carefully and review copies of the inspection report(s) that accompany the order. If additional time is required for you to correct the conditions noted you may make such a request through the inspector. The inspector, in turn, will contact this office and advise such an extension has been granted. It must be understood that the request for extension is to accommodate the scheduling of a re-inspection to verify compliance. The inspector has no authority to grant the operation of regulated equipment

while in non-compliance. If the inspector that originated the report placing the vessel in non-compliance cannot be reached, the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Section office may be contacted at 317.232.1921.

I received an order to correct a condition of non-compliance. Subsequent to that order my insurance company has changed and I now have a different inspector than the one who submitted the report causing the order to be issued. What must I do to ensure compliance with the order?

Answer : Contact the inspector who is employed by your present insuring company to arrange for re-inspection to verify compliance with the non-compliant conditions reported by the previous inspector. Provide your present inspector with a copy of the inspection report that was attached to the order. Your present inspector must identify each specific non-compliant condition listed on that report to verify that each condition reported has been corrected. Full compliance with all conditions reported must be verified prior to the issuance of an invoice for the inspection certificate (permit).

My boiler was internally inspected (as required) several months ago. I have not received an invoice for the inspection and it is my understanding that the invoice must be paid in order to generate an operating permit. What happened?

Answer: It may be that the inspector did not submit a report or it may be that the report was lost in mailing. Contact the inspector that conducted the internal inspection and ask that the inspector (externally) re-inspect the boiler. In accordance with Indiana rules, the inspection report must be received in this office within 30 days of the date inspected. Consequently, the inspector must submit the report based on a current external inspection date and request that the permit expiration date be based on the frequency provided in rules and effective from the date of the internal inspection.

I have multiple vessels at a location that are regulated and the permits expire on different dates. Can I arrange the permits to expire on the same date for convenience in future inspection scheduling?

Answer: Yes. Ask the inspector to submit inspection reports to reflect the same expiration date for the vessels you wish to expire at the same time. The inspector is not permitted to request an expiration date that exceeds the frequency established in Indiana rules for the type vessel inspected; however, there are no restrictions on submitting reports in advance of the expiration date on their permit.

Note: The inspector must indicate on the inspection report a desire to “advance the permit” if the request is made prior to 30 days within its normal expiration, and it is important that the inspector list on the report the name of the individual contacted during the inspection.

Must certificates of inspection (operating permits) be displayed in proximity to the equipment for which it is issued?

Answer: 680 IAC 2-3-15 states that certificates shall be posted under glass in the room containing the equipment. It also states that; in the case of outdoor or portable equipment the certificate shall be kept in a metal container fastened to the equipment, or kept indoors in a place convenient to the equipment.

Note: It is recommended that owners provide a photocopy of certificates where the environment is not conducive to posting of the original certificate and maintain the original certificate in a safe environment. In any case, the certificate must be readily available to any official requiring proof of its issuance.

Who is responsible for ensuring that regulated equipment is inspected at the required intervals, and that the required Certificates of Inspection have been received?

Answer: The owner or user of the equipment must prepare for, and make application to have the equipment inspected at the required intervals. In many cases the insuring company inspector or the state inspector may schedule the equipment for the required inspection; however, this does not relieve the owner or user from that responsibility.